

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2010 2:50 PM

To: EBSA, E-OHPSCA - EBSA

Subject: Comment in support of RIN 1210-AB30

April 24, 2010

I am writing to support the interim final rule under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (RIN 1210-AB30).

I support the strong rule that would forbid insurance companies from charging higher copayments, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses for mental health treatment than they would for other physical health care. As a Psychiatrist who worked in the public sector for many years. I have seen firsthand, many patients with serious and chronic mental illness who cannot afford quality mental health treatment. One of the symptoms of chronic mental illness is downward "socioeconomic drift" which causes even more problems accessing care. Thank you for ensuring that mental health care and physical health care coverage are included in a single deductible.

Sincerely,

Ronald A. Marcus